



# WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

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## TO THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

### A Message to the Doctors

RECENTLY A PHYSICIAN said to me, "What does your Auxiliary do besides meet once a month?"

If one physician should ask, there must also be others who are unaware of their Auxiliary's activities. Since the answer cannot be given quickly, and in small space, I shall try here to tell the story of the Auxiliary's work piecemeal through the year.

The medical profession is dedicated to providing the highest quality of medical and health care. As your Auxiliary, our job is to do exactly what our name implies—to help, to supplement. In addition we are active in community service. We carry out a program suggested by the American Medical Association and its state and county components.

During the 31 years of our existence we have proven to be an important ally. We have accepted equal responsibilities with our husbands in community service and have extended our activities to include those of the medical associations as times and events dictated.

We are active in legislation, working constantly with the California Medical Association. This is accomplished through our State Chairman of Legislation, who in turn contacts her individual county legislative chairmen, who then become active at the "grass roots" level. This of course cannot be accomplished unless we ourselves keep informed about the many problems confronting the medical profession and the solutions offered by the profession. Therefore, this committee works hand in hand with the legislative committees of the county societies, the California Medical Association and the American Medical Association, receiving its working information from the most authoritative sources.

We diligently work for the American Medical Education Foundation, realizing how extremely important it is to maintain medical schooling in the hands of the medical profession. In order to do the job well, the chairman studies the findings of the American Medical Education Foundation with regard to the needs of the medical schools so that the membership will be an informed one.

Nurse Recruitment, now called Para-Medical Careers, remains high on the list of our projects. With the continued shortage of nurses, we must continue to concentrate on recruitment. The majority of our counties have either Nurse Scholarship funds or Student Loan funds or both. Thousands of dollars are raised by our 34 county Auxiliaries to be used for scholarships or loans for girls and boys interested in nursing and the allied fields of

medicine. Future Nurse Clubs are mushrooming throughout the state. At last report there were some 250 Future Nurse Clubs in California.

The Woman's Auxiliary is very active in behalf of Physicians' Benevolence. This is a service to our *own*—and what more need be said!

I have touched lightly on just a few of our important committees pertaining to health, and during the year I will elaborate on them in future articles.

To be active in committees of the kind here mentioned is one form of community service. There is another—the giving of volunteer service within each community. You will find physicians' wives active in almost every health organization. The public recognizes them as an "informed source." As such they can serve both the community and the medical profession. You will find our Auxiliary members giving thousands of hours in volunteer work to the Cancer Society, Tuberculosis Association, Heart Association, Crippled Children's Society, hospital guilds and many another such organizations. We do this not only because we believe in individual responsibility and in group responsibility but because we wish to help medicine to remain a free enterprise.

Nearly all our members belong to other clubs and organizations in their communities and keep on the alert to correct any misinformation or misunderstanding regarding the medical profession. Most of our county auxiliaries have "Guest Day," to which representatives of other clubs in their communities are invited. At these meetings the auxiliaries usually have a speaker who talks on some phase of medicine. This proves helpful to many leaders among the diversified groups and also helps to establish friendly relationships with them, which is good public relations.

What we do "besides meet once a month" is helpful enough to the medical profession to warrant you to encourage all nonmember wives to participate in the Auxiliary and its activities. We need *your* assistance in order to give *our* maximum service to *your* community needs.

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California Medical Association*